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REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 28, 30, and 31 have been amended, and claim 29 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-27 and 35-40 were previously canceled.

Claims 28 and 30-34 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claim 28 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 29. Accordingly, claim 29 has been canceled. Claim 28 has also been amended to now recite "at least one combustion condition monitor" as the word "condition" was unintentionally omitted in the previous amendment, but was in the original claim 28.

Claims 30 and 31 have been amended to now depend from claim 28 in view of the cancellation of claim 29.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 28, 33, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato (5,921,220) (hereinafter Kato '220).

As the Examiner did not reject claim 29 in view of Kato '220, the Applicant believes claim 28 as amended, and claims 33 and 34, which depend from it, to now be patentable over Kato '220.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 28-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato (5,941,743) (hereinafter Kato '743).

Claim 28 recites, *inter alia*, an ECU "configured to adjust an operating parameter in a next combustion cycle if the feedback from the combustion condition monitor is indicative of atypical combustion".

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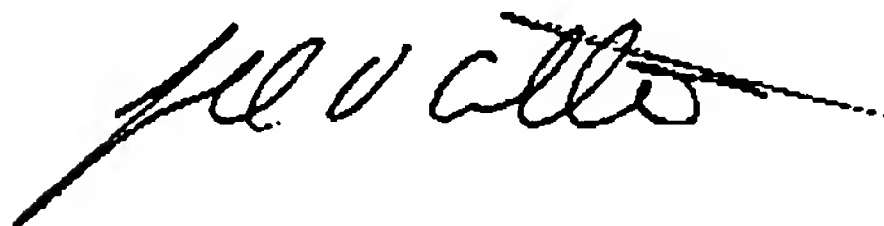
Kato '743 teaches an ECU which, through the use of various sensors, monitors an operating condition that is indicative of exhaust back pressure. The combustion characteristics of the engine are then adjusted based on this operating condition. (Column 1, line 66 to column 2, line 18) The operating conditions being monitored by Kato '743, such as watercraft speed, watercraft depth, motor trim angle, engine mount height, and transmission position, based on which the combustion condition adjustments are being made, are not related in any way to the combustion condition, as is claimed by the Applicants. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 28 is allowable over Kato '743.

Dependent claims 30-34 recite additional features of the invention and are therefore believed to be allowable for the same reasons recited above with respect to claim 28 and for the additional features recited therein.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 28 and 30-34 are now allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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